

Appln. No. 10/087,276

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1200

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-14 remain pending.

Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,959,609 ("Prokopp"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As noted by the examiner, Prokopp discloses an electrical connecting apparatus designed to test for electrical faults in an electronic device. *See Prokopp*, Abstract, lines 1-2. The apparatus 10 connects a tester 12 to an electronic device 25 through test contacts 21 and a flexible cable 11. *Prokopp*, col. 8, lines 1-5, 30-32 and Fig. 1. The test contacts 21 contain metallic pins 32, that protrude through holes in a supporting plate 19, and are electrically connected to a terminal strip 36. *See id.* at col. 9, lines 24-28 and Figs. 1-3. The terminal strip 36 is electrically connected to the flexible cable 11 which is electrically connected to the tester 12. *Id.* From this, it is submitted that Prokopp fails to disclose a carrier for *holding* an electric component. The rejection based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

In addition, Prokopp discloses a coil spring 39 which is under compression between a plate 35 and a pressing member 37. *Id.* at col. 9, lines 52-55 and Fig. 3. The pressing member 37 is held in place by a rigidly mounted plastic portion 34. *Id.* at lines 57-58 and Fig. 3. There is no indication the coil spring 39 *connects* the plate 35 to the pressing member 37, rather it only provides a biasing force to hold the pressing member 37 against the plastic member 34. From this, it is submitted that

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Prokopp fails to disclose a flexible portion *connecting* a pin guide to a frame. The rejection based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

Finally, the examiner also indicates that Prokopp discloses a frame 37, a pin guide 19, one or more channels 33 and a base 31 or 34. However, further examination of Prokopp shows these features to be part of a sub-assembly consisting of a pressing member 37 that slides axially along pins 32 and is held against an immobile plastic portion 34 of a socket strip 31 by coil springs 39. *Id.* at col. 9, lines 42-52 and Fig. 2. Each socket strip 31 contains a plurality of metal sleeves 33 to which the pins 32 are rigidly attached. *Id.* at col. 9, lines 9-18 and Figs. 2 and 3. The entire sub-assembly is rigidly mounted to a supporting plate 19. *Id.* From this, it is submitted that Prokopp fails to disclose a carrier comprising a frame with a base transverse to the connection axis and a pin guide with one or more channels for receiving electrical connection pins. The rejection based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,959,609 ("Prokopp"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

A rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) requires an invention be described in either (1) an application for patent published under § 122(b) before invention by the applicant or (2) a patent granted on an application filed in the United States before invention by the applicant. Since Prokopp was issued on September 25, 1990 and the present application was filed on March 1, 2002, Prokopp is not a reference under § 102(e). The rejection under § 102(e) should accordingly be withdrawn.

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However, even under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) the comments presented above for claim 1 are equally applicable to the present claims. As illustrated above, Prokopp fails to disclose an electronic module *mounted* to the carrier, a pin guide *attached* to the frame by flexible members and a frame with a base and pin guide. The rejection based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,651,444 ("Desso"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As noted by the Examiner, Desso discloses a printed circuit board connector. The connector consists of a housing 32 with a base 34 that sits on an upper surface 10 of a panel board 4. *Desso*, col. 2, lines 13-14 and Fig. 1. The housing 32 has flanges 48 that reside within L-shaped brackets 50. *Id.* at col. 2, lines 21-30 and Fig. 1. These brackets 50 are physically mounted to the panel board 4 and allow the housing 32 to move axially between the panel board 4 and the top of the brackets 50. *Id.* at Figs. 2 and 3. Springs 44 upwardly bias the housing 32 to the upper limit of its travel, *id.* at lines 26-28, but there is no indication of a *connection* between the springs 44 and the housing 32, the brackets 50 or the panel board 4, *see id.* at lines 31-32 and Figs. 1-3. From this, it is submitted that Desso fails to disclose a flexible portion *connecting* the pin guide to the frame. The rejection based thereon should be accordingly withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of

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record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

December 3, 2004
Date


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